Flexible skills development for changing employment markets

CONTEXT
Skills formation plays a major role in employability. As technological change speeds up, demand for employees with specialized technical skills is growing. Skill sets required for employment in modern manufacturing are changing too, as are the institutional structures embodying them. In an age of ultra-competition, there’s an increasing need for specialized, flexible, high-level training – not just formal training but principally in the form of close interaction between the private industrial sector and the education apparatus. Thriving competitive industries require innovative training methods.

APPROACH
Industry’s technical, environmental, safety and ethical challenges of tomorrow cannot be solved by experts trained with yesterday’s methods. UNIDO understands the importance of training. Skilled personnel are essential to competitiveness in international markets. Product consistency and performance depend on them, and so do customers.

UNIDO is increasing the employability and skills of young job-seekers to meet labour market needs by:

• Designing and implementing comprehensive professional training systems;
• Establishing and revamping training – e.g. TVET and other institutions;
• Assisting with the development of infrastructure for TVET and training institutions;
• Preparing curricula and learning material;
• Implementing innovative training and learning tools and methods, including on-line learning.

As manufacturing units undergo swift change, staff training must be flexible and efficient. UNIDO-assisted skills and training programmes are adaptive to these fast-evolving industry requirements. The new training formats leverage technology to improve learning efficiency via innovative learning tools, which are also suited to lifelong learning and continuous professional development.

The main features of the skills development programmes implemented by UNIDO include:

• Access to up-to-date training programmes for training institutions, especially in developing countries with limited resources;
• Broad access to education and training;
• Virtual training in remote regions with security constraints;
• Reduced costs of training, and increased efficiency.

WORKING TOWARDS
The LeatherPanel knowledge platform (www.leatherpanel.org) disseminates information on best practices in the leather and leather products industry. The new platform has the following useful resources for skills development:

**Publications**
An extensive collection of UNIDO publications, manuals and reports showcasing more than 50 years of UNIDO involvement in the leather value chain. These materials outline the main issues related to the leather sector.

**e-Learning material**
Training activities are an integral part of UNIDO’s technical assistance programmes throughout the leather value chain. To supplement and strengthen classroom and practical trainings, and to increase training delivery efficiency, UNIDO has integrated the use of animation into its innovative e-learning platform.

“It’s an excellent activity of UNIDO to launch the portal to disseminate technical information on best practices in the leather and leather products industry. The documents will be useful and can be easily followed by the world leather industry.”

Dr. S. Rajamani
Chairman - Asian International Union of Environment (AIUE) Commission